

## World Civilizations

*Meets Expectations for Student-Learning: 1,3,4,7,8,9*

Required Full Year Grade: 9 A Level

In the first semester, students will investigate Europe from the Renaissance and Reformation through the Age of Revolutions. The second semester begins with an examination of the era of Imperialism and Colonization and concludes with an analysis of post World War II societies and civilizations. Politics and diplomacy are studied as well as the social, economic, religious, scientific and technological factors that have shaped world history. Students will develop skills in working with primary sources, research, discussion, reading and writing. Assessment strategies include written and oral reports, objective questions, open-response questions and document-based questions.

## American History from 1763 to 1877

*Meets Expectations for Student-Learning: 1,3,4,7,8,9,10*

Required Full Year Grade: 10 Honors or A Level

Prerequisite: Course placement is based on the teacher's recommendation and past academic performance.

This is the first year of a two-year course in American history. Following a chronological approach, the course begins with the colonial era and continues through Reconstruction. Students will study the causes and consequences of the American Revolution, as well as the development of the Constitution. Other topics of study include the early national period, the reform movements of the 1800s, Jacksonian democracy, westward expansion, the Civil War and Reconstruction. The year will conclude with a study of the American West in the late 1800s. The core content is the same for both the Honors and A-level courses, however, the pace and focus on skills will be different. Honors level students will read more in-depth primary and secondary source documents, examine American history in a global context and participate in more independent learning. All students will continue to develop their skills working with primary sources, research, discussion, reading and writing. Assessment strategies for all students will include written and oral reports, objective questions, open-response questions and document-based questions.

## American Studies

*Meets Expectations for Student-Learning: 1,3,4,7,8,9,10*

Required Full Year Grade: 11 Honors or A Level

Prerequisite: Course placement is based on the teacher's recommendation and past academic performance.

This is the second year of a two-year course in American history. Following a chronological approach, the course begins with a review of the American West and continues to the present day. All of the traditional aspects of US History and English are part of this course. Students study these subjects with two teachers. Classes are scheduled during consecutive periods, providing flexibility in grouping students into different combinations. This course provides students with insight into the relationships among our literary, cultural, artistic, philosophical and scientific traditions that have created a diverse but common American heritage. Students will continue to develop their skills in working with primary sources, research, discussion, reading and writing. There are some common assignments and a variety of assessments are used including written, visual and oral reports, objective questions, open response questions and document-based questions. The core content is the same for both the Honors and A-level courses, however, the pace and focus on skills will be different. Honors level students will use a college-level textbook, read more in-depth primary and secondary sources and participate in more independent learning. All students will participate in Performance Assessment at the end of the second semester.

## Sociology

*Meets Expectations for Student-Learning: 1,3,4,7,8,11*

Elective Semester Grades: 11-12 Honors or A Level

Students will explore human society in a variety of ways. This will involve the investigation of such social institutions as the family, politics, education, economics, and work. Sociological

research will be used throughout the course to conduct surveys, interviews, and experiments on various topics. Additional topics of study will include social group dynamics and organization, as well as crime and sociology in law. Community service learning is incorporated in the course.

## **Psychology**

*Meets Expectations for Student-Learning: 1,3,4,7,8*

Elective                      Semester                      Grades: 11-12                      Honors or A Level

Prerequisite: None. In most cases, students who have taken Psychology are not eligible to take AP Psychology.

Psychology students will explore human behavior and the mind. Psychology provides an overview of many of the areas of psychology including social psychology, adolescence, methods of research, consciousness, learning, neuroscience, personality, and abnormal behavior and therapy. Classes will include a combination of discussions, lectures, films, and presentations. A variety of theories will be examined. Students should learn to think critically with psychology as they improve their critical thinking skills. Further, they should develop a better understanding of themselves and the forces acting upon them. Students seeking honors credit must execute a written agreement with the teacher for additional work.

## **Advanced Placement Psychology**

*Meets Expectations for Student-Learning: 1,3,4,7,8*

Elective                      Full Year                      Grades: 11-12                      Advanced Placement

Prerequisite: Course placement is based on the teacher's recommendation and past academic performance. Standardized test scores and placement test scores may also be used.

Advanced Placement Psychology is the equivalent of a college introductory psychology course. It explores human behavior and the mind. It addresses such questions as: "What makes us who we are? What are the biological bases of behavior? How do we learn? What are sensation and perception? What is adolescence? What is mental illness and how is it treated? What motivates people?" Classes include a combination of discussions, lectures, films and presentations. A variety of theories will be examined including Freud, Skinner, Piaget, and Kagan. Students will develop a better understanding of themselves and the forces acting upon them, as well as improve their critical thinking and writing skills. This course meets the College Board's expectations for an AP Psychology course. Students should expect that the reading, writing, and discussions reflect demands appropriate to a college course. There will be a research project. Students are expected to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May. Successful completion of summer work is expected.

## **Advanced Placement United States History**

*Meets Expectations for Student-Learning: 1,3,4,7,8,9,10*

Elective                      Full Year                      Grades: 11-12                      Advanced Placement

Prerequisite: Course placement is based on the teacher's recommendation and past academic performance. Standardized test scores and placement test scores may also be used.

AP US History is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal with issues in United States history from the age of discovery to the present. It is also designed to prepare students for college by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Solid reasoning and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote considerable time to studying, are necessary to succeed. A variety of approaches will be used to analyze American politics, society, economics and history. Students will use a college level textbook, read extensive primary and secondary sources and demonstrate their ability to learn independently. This course meets the College Board's expectations for an AP US History course. Juniors accepted into this course will take either AP English (Language and Composition) or Grade 11 Honors English. These will replace the junior American Studies requirement. Students are expected to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May and will participate in a modified performance assessment in June. Successful completion of summer work is expected.

## Honors Topics: Modern European History

*Meets Expectations for Student-Learning: 1,3,4,7,8,9*

Elective      Full Year      Grades: 11-12      Honors

Prerequisite: Course placement is based on the teacher's recommendation and past academic performance. Standardized test scores and placement test scores may also be used.

This Modern European History course gives students an opportunity to acquire knowledge of European History from 1450 to the present. Through such study, students will develop the ability to weigh evidence and reach conclusions on the basis of facts. Students will learn how to extract information from primary documents and secondary sources; to use research techniques to make presentations, both written and oral; and to demonstrate analytical and interpretive skills of good scholarship. Students will present all research findings using both oral and written formats.

## America and the World Today

*Meets Expectations for Student-Learning: 1,3,4,7,8,9,10*

Elective      Semester      Grades: 11-12      Honors or A Level

This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of their role in the local, state, national and global community. This course will also review the purpose, principles and practices of American government. Students will investigate their rights and responsibilities as American citizens and how to exercise these rights and responsibilities at the local, state, national and international levels. Current issues, class discussions, guest speakers, research and a service learning project provide students the opportunity to explore various aspects of their local and global community. Students continue to develop their skills as critical thinkers when analyzing evidence, issues and arguments.

## Honors Topics: Asian and African History

*Meets Expectations for Student-Learning: 1,3,4,7,8,9*

Elective      Full Year      Grades: 11-12      Honors

Prerequisite: Course placement is based on the teacher's recommendation and past academic performance. Standardized test scores and placement test scores may also be used.

This course is designed to enrich students' knowledge of Africa and Asia from ancient times to the present. Students will begin their study investigating early societies in Asia and Africa. Through the use of primary source documents, research, written, oral and visual reports, students study the evolution of society, religion, government, economics, philosophy and the arts in these regions. The course will conclude by examining the role the various regions of Asia and Africa play in the world today.

## Economics

*Meets Expectations for Student-Learning: 1,2,3,4,7,8*

Elective      Semester      Grades: 11-12      Honors or A Level

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to economics. Following the guidelines of the Department of Education Frameworks, this course examines the allocation of scarce resources and the economic reasoning used by government agencies and by people as consumers, producers, savers, investors, workers and voters. Key elements include the study of scarcity, supply and demand, market structures, the role of government, national income determination, money and the role of financial institutions, economic stabilization and trade.

## Global Studies

*Meets Expectations for Student-Learning: 1,3,4,7,8,9*

Elective      Semester      Grades: 10-12      Honors or A Level

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

*Global education teaches students the knowledge and skills necessary for citizenship in a culturally diverse and globally interconnected world. (SPS Global Studies Committee)*

This course will introduce students to and provide them with an understanding of their role in a global society. It will also provide them with the knowledge and skills necessary to participate in an increasingly globalized world. Students will investigate a myriad of topics related to

globalization through an examination of current events, class discussions, guest speakers and independent research. Topics that will be considered include government & politics, environmental issues, social & cultural conflicts and economics.

### **Advanced Placement Human Geography**

*Meets Expectations for Student-Learning: 1,3,4,7,8,9*

Elective                      Full Year                      Grade: 12                      Advanced Placement

Prerequisite: Director Approval

This course will introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use and alteration of the Earth's surface. Students will employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. Topics of study in this course include: geographic concepts, population, cultural patterns and processes, political organization of spaces, agricultural and rural land use, industrialization and economic development, cities and urban land use. Throughout the course, students will develop and refine their ability to understand how cultural landscapes and regions emerge; use maps and other spatial data to pose and solve problems; identify and analyze the local, regional, national and global factors that influence a phenomena; and understand the ways in which events and processes operating in one place influence those operating at other places. Students are expected to take the AP exam in the spring.

### **Social Science Internship**

*Meets Expectations for Student-Learning: 3,4,7,8,9*

Elective                      Semester                      Grades: 11-12                      A Level

Prerequisites: Teacher Recommendation; interview with director

Students will be assigned by the department director to work in a World Civilizations or American History class as an assistant to the teacher in that class. Interns will assist in their assigned class by helping students as needed with class work, including projects, in-class activities and other assignments. The teacher may ask interns to facilitate work with small groups of students or create study guides and review materials with or for students. The intern may also assist students with the organization of their notebooks, test preparation, projects and long-term planning. Students who participate in this program will meet with their cooperating teacher and will complete monthly feedback forms. The grade for this class will be a pass/fail grade determined by attendance and the feedback forms completed by both the teacher and student.

### **Themes in American History (I & II)**

*Meets Expectations for Student-Learning: 1,3,4,7,8,9,10*

Elective                      Semester                      Grades: 11-12                      Honors or A level

This course will provide students an opportunity to explore American history in an in-depth thematic way. Students will examine four themes in American History each semester. Some examples of potential themes are War, Popular Culture (sports, music & movies), the Arts, Patriotism & Nationalism, Crime & Punishment and Minority Experiences. Students may take one or both semesters of the course, different themes will be addressed in each semester. Students will be expected to read primary and secondary sources, view a variety of films, and engage regularly in class discussions. Students will be assessed using a variety of techniques including individual and group projects, essays, and presentations. Each semester of the course will conclude with a project based final exam. Students seeking honors credit must meet with the teacher and director to develop a written agreement about supplemental work and due dates for honors credit.

### **World Religions**

*Meets Expectations for Student-Learning: 1,3,4,7,8,9*

Elective                      Semester                      Grades: 11-12                      Honors or A level

Religion is a powerful and pervasive force in our world, both historically and in the present day. Students will explore the history, structure, beliefs, and traditions of a variety of worldwide religions. This course will include the study of religious traditions of Middle Eastern origin

(Judaism, Christianity, Islam), South Asian origin (Hinduism, Buddhism) and East Asian origin (Daoism, Confucianism, Shinto). Through discussion, field trips, and primary and secondary sources, students will think critically about, as well as develop a respect for, what people believe and why they believe it. Students seeking honors credit must execute a written agreement with the teacher for additional work.